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**Reply to: Tampa, Florida**

December 12, 2001

**DEFENDANTS ARRESTED IN COLOMBIA**  
**IN ONGOING DRUG INVESTIGATION**

Mac Cauley, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today the unsealing of the Second Superseding Indictment in the case of United States v. Losada, et. al. after the foreign arrests of seven defendants charged in the Second Superseding Indictment. The arrests were made in Colombia, S.A. by the Colombian National Police and Colombian Fiscalia with the assistance of agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration Bogota Country Office and Tampa Division agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration and United States Customs Service. In addition to the seven arrests, nineteen locations were searched in accordance with Colombian law. As of the time of this release, real estate valued at over \$1 million dollars and currency in excess of \$100,000 has been confiscated.

The roundup is part of an ongoing joint federal agency investigation that, to date, has resulted in the documented interdiction of over 100 tons of cocaine and the arrests of over 170 defendants. The arrests in Colombia will begin an extradition process in which the United States will seek to have the government of Colombia surrender the defendants for criminal prosecution in the United States.

United States Attorney Mac Cauley stated: "This is another example of the

outstanding cooperation between our federal law enforcement agencies, United States Coast Guard, United States Navy and the Colombian government. Working together, we create a formidable obstacle to the largest and most powerful cocaine traffickers in the world. The investigation is ongoing. “

Arrested in Colombia were:

1. Ruben Cuevas, DOB: 8/31/59, Charged with violations of 21 U.S.C. § 963 Conspiracy to Import Cocaine, 21 U.S.C. § 846, Conspiracy to Possess With Intent To Distribute Cocaine
2. Alirio Quinones, DOB: unknown, Charged with violations of 21 U.S.C. §963 Conspiracy to Import Cocaine, 21 U.S.C. § 846, Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute Cocaine
3. Numaël Suarez, DOB: 12/18/38, Charged with violations of 21 U.S.C. § 963 Conspiracy To Import Cocaine, 21 U.S.C. § 846, Conspiracy to Possess With Intent To Distribute Cocaine
4. Luis Hernando Velazquez, DOB: 7/23/56, Charged with violations of 21 U.S.C. § 963 Conspiracy To Import Cocaine, 21, U.S.C. § 846, Conspiracy to Possess With Intent To Distribute Cocaine
5. Efrain Molano, DOB: 9/15/55, Charged with violations of 21 U.S.C. § 963, Conspiracy To Import Cocaine; 21 U.S.C. § 846, Conspiracy to Possess With Intent To Distribute Cocaine
6. Teofilo Castillo , DOB: 4/16/58, Charged with violations of 21 U.S.C. § 963, Conspiracy To Import Cocaine; 21, U.S.C. § 846, Conspiracy To Possess

With Intent To Distribute Cocaine

7. Humberto Alvarado, DOB: 7/23/37, Charged with violations of 21, U.S.C. § 963, Conspiracy To Import Cocaine; 21 U.S.C. U.S.C. § 846, Conspiracy To Possess With Intent To Distribute Cocaine

A conviction on the charges of Conspiracy to Import Cocaine and Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute Cocaine each carry penalties of ten years to Life imprisonment.

The criminal case is being prosecuted by Joseph K. Ruddy and W. Stephen Muldrow, Assistant United States Attorneys in the Tampa Office, assigned to the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

An Indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of federal law, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.